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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, HO
SUBJ: BASIC DRAFT 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT--HONDURAS

REF: STATE 215083

1. SETTING:

HONDURAS HAS BEEN GOVERNED BY THE ARMED FORCES SINCE DECEMBER 1972. POWER IS EXERCISED THROUGH A SUPERIOR COUNCIL COMPOSED OF 30 OFFICERS. ON AUGUST 7, 1978, THE COUNCIL APPOINTED THREE OF ITS MEMBERS TO REPLACE THE CHIEF OF STATE, GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR, WHO HAD HELD THAT POSITION FOR OVER THREE YEARS. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP HAS EMPHASIZED ITS COMMITMENTS TO HOLDING ELECTIONS AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED IN APRIL 1980, PRESS FREEDOM AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AS WELL AS TO CONTINUING THE COUNTRY'S AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. CIVILIAN GROUPS, INCLUDING TRADE UNIONS, PEASANT FEDERATIONS AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, ARE FREE TO ORGANIZE AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN MAKING THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT. THESE GROUPS, AIDED BY AN ACTIVE PRESS, ARE OFTEN SUCCESSFUL IN INFLUENCING THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, THE FINAL ARBITER OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONDURAS, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE ARMED FORCES SUPERIOR COUNCIL. THE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN SUS-
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PENDED SINCE 1972, BUT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE FREE TO ORGANIZE AND ISSUE STATEMENTS, AND FREEDOMS OF PRESS, RELIGION AND EMIGRATION HAVE GENERALLY BEEN RESPECTED, AS HAVE OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS. VOTER REGISTRATION IS NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE 1980 ELECTIONS.

HONDURAS IS A POOR COUNTRY WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS--ILLITERACY, POVERTY, MALNUTRITION AND INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE--THAT REMAIN

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FAR FROM BEING SOLVED. EVEN WITH THE BEST OF GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS, THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT EASILY RESOLVED, AND ARE ONLY ALLEVIATED WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. PERHAPS HONDURAS' MOST PRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS NEEDS ARE THOSE RELATED TO FOOD, SHELTER AND HEALTH, AND ARE SYMPTOMS OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TO BE OVERCOME BY LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. THE PROVISION OF JUSTICE, BOTH FROM POORLY TRAINED POLICE AND OVERBURDENED COURTS, ALSO NEEDS ATTENTION. HONDURAS HAS NOT FALLEN INTO THE CYCLE OF TERROR-ISM, INSURGENCY AND RIGHT AND LEFT-WING VIOLENCE AND COUNTER-VIOLENCE, AS HAVE SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND ITS OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IS COMPARATIVELY GOOD.

2. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE:

TORTURE IS NOT A GOVERNMENT CONDONED PRACTICE. NO REPORTS OF TOR-TURE HAD BEEN RECEIVED UNTIL LATE APRIL 1978, WHEN A POLICE LIEU-TENANT ADMITTED TO HAVING "TORTURED" HIS PRISONER. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR STATED OUR CONCERN OVER THE IMPLICATION THAT SUCH TREATMENT MIGHT BE A WIDESPREAD POLICE PRACTICE AND THE CHIEF OF STATE IN EXPRESSING HIS REPUDIATION EMPHASIZED THE GOH CONDEMNED SUCH ACTIONS AND THAT TORTURE IS NOT AN INSTRUMENT OF HONDURAN GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE LIEUTENANT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CASHIERED BY THE ARMY (WHICH EXERCISES AUTHORITY OVER THE POLICE), ALTHOUGH THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ACTION WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY LINKED TO HIS ADMISSION. OTHER THAN THIS INCIDENT, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF THE USE OF TORTURE.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT: INSTANCES OF MISTREATMENT BY LOCAL POLICE ARE OFTEN WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS. THE REPORTS USUALLY CONFINE THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT TO BRUSQUE HANDLING ALTHOUGH THE USE OF EXCESSIVE, UNNECESSARY FORCE AND SOMETIMES OUTRIGHT BRUTALITY IS SOMETIMES ALLEGED. THE NUMBER OF SUCH REPORTS HAS DECREASED LATELY, GIVING SOME CREDENCE TO CLAIMS THE PRESS PREVIOUSLY WAS INTENTIONALLY HIGHLIGHTING THESE INCIDENTS. THERE ARE NO REPORTS ALLEGING MISTREATMENT WHICH IS CONDONED OR ENCOURAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE EXTENT IT OCCURS, WOULD SEEM TO BE THE RESULT OF THE LOW LEVEL OF TRAINING AND INDIVIDUAL EXCESSES. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, JAIL CONDITIONS ARE POOR, REFLECTING THE POVERTY OF THE COUNTRY. ONE PRISIONER, RE-LEASED AFTER TWO WEEKS, IN A WIDELY REPORTED COMMENT SAID, THE PRISON WAS "NOT A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL" BUT HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT MISTREATMENT.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT:

HONDURAN LAW PROVIDES FOR AN ARRAIGNMENT SHORTLY AFTER ARREST,

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AND THIS APPEARS TO BE THE RULE IN MOST CASES. HEARINGS MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY. THREE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE RECEIVED WIDESPREAD ATTENTION (THE DETENTION OF A NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR, THE ARREST OF SOME 15 PERSONS CHARGED WITH PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TRIAL OF NINE PEASANT LEADERS) RAISED QUESTIONS OF ARBITRARY ARREST. HOWEVER, HONDURAN LEGAL PROCEDURES PERMIT THE JUDGE TO HOLD A PERSON FOR SIX DAYS' QUESTIONING BEFORE DETERMINING IF A TRIAL IS TO BE HELD WHEN THERE IS A REASONALBE INDICATION OF AN OFFENSE. IN THE FIRST CASE THE PERSON WAS SUBSE-QUENTLY RELEASED WHILE IN THE SECOND THE GOVERNMENT PARDONED THOSE BEING HELD. SOME GROUPS HAVE MAINTAINED THE NINE FORMER LEADERS OF THE ISLETAS PEASANT ASSOCIATION CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT ARE BEING HELD ARBITRARILY FOR POLITICAL REASONS BECAUSE THEY ARE COMMUN-ISTS, EVEN THOUGH THE CASE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE COURTS. BOTH A
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LOWER COURT AND AN APPEALS COURT FOUND THEM INNOCENT AND THE

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CASE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE COURTS. BOTH A LOWER COURT AND AN APPEALS COURT FOUND THEM INNOCENT AND THE CASE HAS NOW BEEN TAKEN BY THE PROSECUTION TO THE SUPREME COURT IN ACCORD WITH JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM IS THAT OF NUMEROUS PEASANTS BEING DETAINED (PRESS REPORTS ARE MADE OF AS MANY AS 300-400) ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES INCLUDING ARSON, CATTLE RUSTL-

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ING, FENCE DESTROYING, WOOD CUTTING, THEFT, ETC. ACCORDING TO THE PEASANT FEDERATIONS, THE CHARGES ARE TRUMPED UP HARASSMENT, WHILE LANDOWNERS CLAIM THE CRIMES WERE COMMITED. THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE DIRECTOR, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING HONDURAS' AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, HAS NOTED THAT THESE CHARGES MUST BE CONSIDERED BY THE COURTS. AGRARIAN UNREST IS ENDEMIC IN HONDURAS WITH LAND OCCUPATIONS AND SOME TENSION INCLUDING ACTS INVOLVING THE CHARGES MADE. NEVERTHELESS, HONDURAS DOES HAVE AN AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM THAT ATTEMPTS TO MEET PEASANT NEEDS,ALTHOUGH THE REFORT HAS SLOWED IN TERMS OF NEW BENEFICIARIES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. USE OF PRESSURE TACTICS BY PEASANT GROUPS, WHICH OFTEN IN-CLUDES DELIBERATELY COURTING ARREST, IS TO URGE THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAWS BE IMPLEMENTED, AND IS NOT NECESSARILY A CONFRON-TATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, WHILE OFTEN MOVING SQUATTERS OFF LAND, THE GOVERNMENT IN MANY CASES LATER AWARDS THE LAND, OR OTHER LAND, TO THEM AS A RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS. IN DECEMBER 1975, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WROTE THE THEN CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR EXPRES-SING RECOGNITION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE AGRARIAN
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CRISIS. THE HONDURAN MILITARY AND POLICE HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SUC-CESSFUL IN MOVING PEOPLE OFF PRIVATE LAND WITHOUT SERIOUS INCI-DENTS. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS THE VIOLENT JUNE 1975 TRAGEDY RESULTING FROM GROWING AGRARIAN UNREST IN OLANCHO PROVINCE. FOUR-TEEN PERSONS (INCLUDING AN AMERICAN PRIEST) WERE KILLEDIN THS CONFRONTATION. NUMEROUS PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND ACCUSED OF PER-PETRATING THIS CRIME OR OF BEING ACCOMPLICESS. THE CASE WAS TRIED AND TWO PERSONS, BOTH ARMY OFFICERS, WER FOUND GUILTY. OTHER PER-SONS WERE ACQUITTED BECAUSE THE COURT WAS UNABLE TO FIND SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE UNDER THE LAW TO CONVICT THEM. BOTH PROSECUTION AND DE-FENSE HAVE APPEALED THE CASE TO THE SUPREME COURT. WHEN THE SUP-REME COUT MAKES ITS DECISION BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL AND JUDICIAL REMEDIES AVAILABLE.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL:

THE HONDURAN JUDICIARY IS INDEPENDENT BUT NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS IN DEVELOPED DEMOCRACIES. REFORM OF THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN A STATED GOAL OF RECENT SUPREME COURT PRESIDENTS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN UN-ABLE TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS IN THE FACE OF AN ARCHAIC LEGAL CODE AND CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. ACCESS TO THE LEGAL PROCESS TO REDRESS GRIEVANCES OFTEN VARIES WITH THE SOCIAL/ECONOMIC STANDING OF THE INDIVIDUAL. THERE ARE OFTEN INORDINATELY LONG DELAYS ENCOUNTERED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BECAUSE THE SYSTEM IS OVER-BURDENED. A GENERAL PARDON IN EARLY 1978 BENEFITED BETWEEN 700-1000 COMMON CRIMINALS AND WAS BASED IN PART UPON THE GOVERN-MENT'S RECOGNITION THAT IMPROVEMENT IS DESIRABLE IN TIS HANDL-ING OF ACCUSED PERSONS. BUT WITHAL WITH PROBLEMS, THE JUCIARY DOES ACT. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, UNDER A MILITARY GOVERNMENT, LOWER COURTS HAVE TRIED AND FOUND MILITARY OFFICERS GUILTY

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OF CRIMES, AND IN THE ISLETAS CASE HAVE ACQUITTED THE ACCUSED. BOTH CASES ARE BEING APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT. THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION IS BECOMING EX-
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PECIALLY ACTIVE IN THIS AREA AND THERE IS A MORE WIDESPREAD AWAREMESS OF THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME:

THERE ARE NO REPORTS INVOLVING INVASION OF THE HOME. IN ONE WELL PUBLICIZED CASE, THE POLICE DID NOT ENTER A HOUSE THAT HAD BEEN SURROUNDED UNTIL A JUDICIAL WARRANT WAS OBTAINED, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL HOURS PASSED.

3. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD , SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION:

HONDURAS SUFFERS FROM ALL THE ILLS RELATING TO A DEVELOPING SOCIETY. MALNUTRITION, INADEQUATE HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES, ILLITERACY, AND LARGE NUMBERS OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL. THESE ILLS ESPECIALLY AFFECT THE RURAL POOR IN THIS AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY. IN 1974 THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS EMBAR-
KED ON AN AMBITIOUS FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE PRI-
MARY OBJECTIVES OF WHICH ARE TO INTEGRATE THE RURAL POOR INTO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREA. GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, IN SUCH SECTORS AS AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH, MORE THAN DOUBLED BETWEEN 1974 AND 1978 AND REPRESENT OVER 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET. DEFENSE, INCLUDING POLICE FORCES, ACCOUNTS FOR 7.5 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET. IN ADDITION, SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING MADE FOR BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY.

THE AGRARIAN REFORT EFFORT SUFFERS FROM SHORTAGES OF RESOURCES, CAPITAL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS WHICH SOMETIMES LEAD TO HIEGHTENED TENSIONS. PROGRAMS OF AG-
RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION, CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND STORAGE HAVE BEEN EXPANDED. A NEW EMPHASIS ON NUTRITION HAS
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SEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1976 OF A NUTRITION PLANNING GROUP

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WITHIN THE NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL TO STEER AN OPERATIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM AIMED AT HONDURAS' POOR.

IN 1975 TH MINISTRY OF HEALTH INSTITUTED AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM TO EXTEND BASIC HEALTH SERVICES, EMPHASIZING PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, TO THE RURAL AREAS THRUGH THE USE OF PARAMEDICS.

PRIMARY EDUCATION, WHICH CURRENTLY ONLY PROVIDES SERVICES TO AN ESTIMATED 57 PCT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN--AND A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THESE NEVER EVEN FINISH PRIMARY OR BEGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL--IS BEING EXPANDED IN RURAL AREAS AND A MORE RELEVANT CURRICULUM IS BEING DEVELOPED.

CORRUPTION IS A PROBLEM AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, A REFLECTION AND SYMPTOM, AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, TO THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. IT ALLEGEDLY RANGES FROM THE PETTY--A FEW DOLLARS TO FIX A TRAFFIC TICKET--TO THE SUBSTANTIAL--A REQUEST FOR $5,000 FROM AN ARMY OFFICER TO A LANDOWNER TO CARRY OUT A LEGAL ORDER MOVING SQUATTERS--AND OCCASIONALLY THE SPECTACULAR, AS THE $1.25 MILLION PAID A FEW YEARS AGO BY A TRANSNATIONAL COMPANY TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO AVOID A TAX ON BANANA EXPORTS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DOCUMENT THE EXTENT OF THIS, NOR ITS EFFECTS ON DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO ACHIEFING DEVELOPMENT GOALS. OVERALL, HONDURAS'
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DEVELOPMENT RECORD IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ANYWHERE, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT SHOULD HELP TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS.

4. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY:

FREEDOM OF THOUGH AND RELIGION ARE RESPECTED, ALTHOUGH BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS CONSIDERED TO BE PROPAGANDA ARE SOMETIMES CONFISCATED FROM TRAVELLERS RETURNING TO HONDURAS AFTER VISITING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO HOLD RALLIES HAS BEEN LIMITED SINCE 1972. NEVERTHELESS, POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, ARE FREE TO HOLD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS AND TO PUBLICIZE DECLARATIONS WHICH ARE OFTEN CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES. STUDENTS AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS, SUCH AS LABOR, HAVE HELD DEMONSTRATIONS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

THE HONDURAN PRESS IS REMARKABLY FREE IN COMPARISON WITH THAT OF OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS ANNOYANCE AT STRIDENT HANDLING OF SOME NEWS STORIES. OPEN CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE NORM, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE JULY 1978 DETENTION FOR FIVE DAYS OF ONE NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR BECAME A CAUSE CELEBRE. HIS BEING HELD FOR QUESTIONING BY AN INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE, AS IS PERMITTED BY HONDURAN LAW, WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS A REPRISAL FOR AGGRESSIVE REPORTING OF A NARCOTICS SCANDAL WHICH THREATENED TO IMPLICATE SME MILITARY OFFICERS. THE CARTOONIST FOR THE SAME NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN HELD FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION BECAUSE THE JUDGE FOUND SUFFICIENT INDICATIONS OF AN OFFENSE. A DRAFT PRESS LAW THAT WOULD RESTRICT PRESS ACTIVITIES WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO
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IMPLEMENT RUMORED RESTRICTIONS. OVERT ATTEMPTS AT LIMITING PRESS FREEDOM ARE RARE. HOWEVER, MORE SUBTLE PRESSURES ARE CONSTANTLY AT WORK. INTEREST GROUPS (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT) CAN AND DO SUBORN JOURNALISTS TO REFLECT THEIR POSITIONS OR TO PUBLISH SPECIFIC, PREPARED ARTICLES, WHILE THER MAY ALSO BE A SELF-LIMITING FACTOR BASED ON THE FEAR OF RESTRICTIONS OR LOSS OF GOVERNMENT AND ADVERTISING INCOME. NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS NOT READILY APPARENT AND THE MEDIA ARE ABLE TO SEEK OUT, REPORT AND COMMENT ON THE NEWS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED ITS RESPECT FOR PRESS FREEDOM.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION: THESE RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED IN HONDURAS, ALTHOUGH TRAVEL TO AND FROM EL SALVADOR IS RESTRICTED BECAUSE OF THE UNRESOLVED 1969 DISPUTE WITH THAT COUNTRY.

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C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL PROCESS: SINCE THE 1972 COUP, THE MILITARY HAS EXERCISED POWER AND THE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. NEVERTHELESS, CIVILIAN POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR UNIONS, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS HAVE BEEN FREE TO ORGANIZE AND ARTICULATE THEIR POSITIONS. FREEDOM HOUSEG LISTS HONDURAS AS "PARTLY FREE."

WHILE THE POLIITICAL PARTIES CANNOT YET HOLD MASS RALLIES, ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF HONDURAS, HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEDIA AND MAKE EXTENSIVE UE OF IT. ELECTIONS TO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ARE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1980, WITH THE PERIOD OF ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER 1979. UNTIL THEN, A VOTER CENSUS AND REGISTRATION PROCESS WHICH BEGAN AUGUST 15, 1978, AND WILL CONTINUE THRUGH AUGUST 1979, IS UNDERWAY.

5. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HONDURAS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATED FULLY WITH A 1976 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE MISSION. THE EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO OTHER REQUEST FOR INVES-
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